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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

Thank you for your commitment to veterans and the issues that impact them. I am writing today with concerns over the implementation of the *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010*, Public Law 111-163. As you likely know, recent media reports indicate that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) missed the January 31, 2011 deadline for full implementation of the law, without enacting many of the bill's provisions. I'm particularly interested in the bill's provisions that would provide benefits to caregivers of severely wounded veterans.

As you know, the signature injuries of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan include traumatic brain injury and amputations, some of which leave our young men and women unable to care for themselves. This can permanently affect the lives of their families and loved ones. The *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act* is an important piece of legislation in continuing to honor the sacrifices of our nation's veterans, but also recognizing the sacrifices made by their families and loved ones in caring for the most severely wounded veterans on their return home.

In my duties as a Member of Congress, I've had the pleasure of meeting brave young men like Ian Ralston of Waterloo, IA, and Chris Billmeyer of Dubuque, IA, who suffered severe injuries in the line of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2010. Both young men served proudly, and now their families continue to serve as caretakers for them.

This legislation fulfilled a promise to veterans, like Ian and Chris, and their families, that President Obama made when he signed the bill into law in May 2010. With the intent of keeping that promise, I would like to know what current progress the VA has made in implementing the law, when you expect that it will be fully implemented, and what steps are being taken to ensure its full implementation.

Again, thank you for your service and your attention to this matter. I look forward to a written response addressing my concerns within 10 business days.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley
Member of Congress